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MISSOULA SENTINEL
FIRST TEST

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sports one

IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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The University of Montana, with a host of freshmen wrestlers, flexed its muscle Tuesday night against Western Montana sweeping the Bulldogs, 29-18, in the season's opener in Missoula.

Larry Hilderman, Montana wrestling coach, has seven freshmen manning the ten weight classifications and Montana swept six of nine first places in official competition Tuesday. The Grizzlies also won an exhibition match and tied another.

The Grizzlies got a ten point advantage before the competition started when Western Montana forfeited the 118 and 190 lb. classifications. Wayne Strong, a St. Ignatius freshman at 118 lbs., and a Viet Nam Marine veteran, Pat Van Wormer, got an easy ride Tuesday. Van Wormer is a former Missoula Sentinel wrestler and is a freshman grappler at 190 lbs.

At 126 lbs., Montana's Tim Ballou was the victim of a Kelly Barrett pin. The Western Montana matman took only 2:17 to dispose of Ballou.

With .41 left in the match, the Grizzly's Doug Stewart scored two on a reversal to move ahead of the Bulldog's Marty Krautter, 6-5. Stewart got a bonus two for riding time and defeated Krautter, 8-5.

Montana team captain, Pat Chaney coasted to a 13-7 decision over Western's Dan Andersen.

Terry Cottier, a former Missoula Hellgate grappler, decisioned Steve Huffales, 15-4. Cottier placed second in the Class AA competition losing to Great Falls Public's Sid Mounts in the finals.

Montana's Tom Collins, another Missoula freshman, moved ahead 10-0 before pinning Tom Stratton in 6:35. Collins is a Sentinel product and finished third in the state finals last winter.

At 167, Montana's John Ingham lost a 11-3 decision to Western's Dave Hartman. Ingham is a freshman also.

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The quickest pin of the evening went to Western Montana's Gary Brauglet, who pinned the Grizzly's Mike Papich in 1:12. Papich is substituting for Big Sky champ Larry Miller who is finishing out the football season in the Camellia Bowl. Miller will start wrestling after the holiday break.

The most exciting match of the evening was between Montana's Hal Harper and Western's Bill Johnson at 177 lbs. It was exhibition. Johnson scored two on a cradle with four seconds remaining to go ahead of Harper, 17-15; however, when Harper's riding time was added to the tally, the score ended at 17 all.

Montana's Rick Law pinned Charlie Allen in a 150 lb. exhibition match. The time was 7:13.

Hilderman was pleased with his grapplers and said they performed well for the first outing.

He said the Grizzlies will be stronger in the heavier weights when Miller returns and said he has good balance on the team.

Last year Montana finished fourth in the Big Sky meet behind Idaho State, Montana State and Weber.

The next meet for the Grizzlies is a rematch with Western Montana in Dillon on Dec. 8.

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